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Extension Service

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PEOPLE -- TOMORROW AND 4-H CLUB WORK*

It is a very great honor to be invited to speak to a group such as the 4-H Club for I know of no group in our country today that seems to hold more hope for the future than this particular group. When they put their emphasis upon Head, Heart, Hand, and Health for Victory, they have been putting their emphasis on what we have all had in our minds as the necessary things. Victory awaits for those who are prepared in these realms, and we in America, to some extent at least, have come through this war thus far, and see the ultimate victory as we look forward to the world after the war -- after Victory. I should like to say to each of you that our hope depends upon that same thing. What America becomes will depend, to a very great extent, on what you are -- and what America becomes, the world will be, to some extent at least, Tomorrow.

And so if we trace it back far enough, so many things depend upon this younger generation -- upon their lives, their ideals, their hopes. Too many of us are always thinking that we can change the world and can change the laws of the nations, and it isn't true. We are of the opinion that if we get enough things together -- enough power -- enough wealth -- we shall have a great nation -- and that isn't true either. One day we come to learn that our Nation's strength is not in what it has -- it is not in what it is -- but what its citizens are -- what they are in Head, Heart, Hand, and Health. We sometimes think, we Americans, that if we can change our political party, we will have changed something very profound, but I remember one man who said that all you do when you take one political group out and put another political group in, is to take one group of sinners out and put another group of sinners in. You haven't changed anything very profound. We look at our enemy nation, Germany -- now defeated -- a nation which thought if it had power over its neighbor -- a nation who thought that if it robbed all Europe of its wealth -- it could be great. Today we know that the world is not organized that way -- the world is organized on a moral basis. It is what people are that counts, and so for Tomorrow, as we look forward to a better world for you to live in and your children to live in -- we know that we have to fall back ultimately upon this very simple truth -- we shall have tomorrow what we are today. It is a moral universe, and that means that nations and societies and men get about what they deserve. The only way to improve our future is to improve our deserving. I remember hearing Bob Burns say one time that a cousin of his, who had gone away to the city to get married, wrote back home and said there were many ways she was better off than ever before -- more clothes, more money, and she was traveling and she had always wanted to travel -- "but," she said, "there is just one thing wrong -- I hate my husband." And that means, of course, that all these things which we may have will not, at the end of the day change anything we did to be something.

And so America salutes the 4-H Club. It is in a great group of youth like you that we place our trust for Tomorrow. I congratulate you on your achievements -- they have helped us to Victory. I give you good wishes for the years ahead.

*Radio address by Dr. Gerald Kennedy, Pastor of St. Paul Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebr., delivered over Station KFAB on May 28, 1945, in connection with the Nebraska 4-H Club Week of the Air.

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